



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

University of Massachusetts

Amherst 01002

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
HERTER HALL

November 12, 1974

Dear Dan:

My apologies for accosting you so unceremoniously on the platform at UMass last Friday. I have been on leave this fall, and so my own communications are out of order -- apparently I was on the list for lunch with you but nobody could find me.

Anyway, it was a pleasure to see you in action again. As for the course on Vietnam for next semester, I am enclosing the blurb from our departmental course guide so that you can see, ex post facto, what you were endorsing.

Sincerely yours,

Dick Minear

Richard H. Minear

by the personalities and programs behind China's modern movements for change. Some of the topics to be treated: the nature of the Chinese revolutionary process and its place in world history; the Boxer uprising; reform and Sun Yat-sen's 1911 Revolution; the republic under Yuan Shih-k'ai; worldism; the May 4th movement and intellectual revolution; Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist revolution; foreign influence in China; rise of the Chinese Communist Party; Japanese aggression in China; civil war; the Yenan period; the People's Republic and efforts to transform China; the Cultural Revolution. A heavy use of slides will bring visual images of both the events and the personalities. Readings will be taken from various paperback books; these will be available for purchase at the University Store. One or two mid-terms plus a final examination will be required, but research papers may be written in lieu of the quizzes (in consultation with the instructor).

History of Vietnam

History 390-G

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The aim of this course is to provide basic literacy on one of the towering issues of the day. Why did LBJ call North Vietnam a "raggedy-ass little fourth-rate country"? What was it like to be an ll-bush humping the boonies? What really happened in the Gulf of Tonkin? What do the Pentagon Papers reveal? What's wrong with the domino theory? Why did Nixon carpet-bomb Hanoi? If you can't answer these questions, you need this course, an eye-opening introduction to Vietnamese culture and history and to official American thinking about Vietnam.

Readings include Frances Fitzgerald, Fire in the Lake; k Noam Chomsky, At War with Asia; Nixon speeches, Kissinger articles (both for demolition purposes), and assorted articles. One hour exam, one short (4 page) paper, and a final exam will be required, as well as active participation in discussion sessions. For each session there will be an assigned reading, a brief quiz, and then discussion aimed at increasing critical faculties. There are no pre-requisites. Added Notes: Attractions include movies, guest lecturers.